

**During AIG Hearing, Wilson Anticipates Wall Street's Next Shady Move
Introduces the "TARP Wage Accountability Act"**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - During the Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises hearing, "American International Group's Impact on the Global Economy: Before, During, and After Federal Intervention," Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) introduced the TARP Wage Accountability Act.

"It is my understanding that most Wall Street folks use a compensation approach where bonuses make up a majority of the total income package for more senior employees. So basically, salaries are kept relatively low and bonuses are, by comparison, huge," Wilson said.

"Yesterday I read in the Wall Street Journal that companies - anticipating Congressional action - are trying to go around us by proposing to significantly increase pay rather than have to deal with scrutiny of bonuses," Wilson said.

That is why Wilson introduced the TARP Wage Accountability Act.

"This week we are focused on the ridiculous bonuses paid to AIG employees at taxpayer expense, and rightly so; but I worry about the next shoe that's going to drop," Wilson said. "I believe that shoe will be the flipping of the compensation structure at financial companies. Due to the critical eye of Congress and the American taxpayer on bonuses, there is now an effort by the companies to flip that compensation structure."

The TARP Wage Accountability Act would stop such proposals in their tracks. Wilson's bill would force companies that took 10 billion dollars or more in TARP funds to abide by the government Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) structure set for military and government employees. This year for example, that would mean that salaries for AIG employees couldn't

be raised more than 3.9%.

"If the COLA is good enough for our soldiers and government workers, it should be good enough for Wall Street," Wilson said. "The intent of my bill is to stop those TARP recipients that are scheming to change their pay structure to reward themselves with double or triple their salaries. I want to make sure that taxpayer money does not go to outrageous raises - raises that are not deserved."